



Arts & Science Council (ASC) Investments in the Town of Matthews

Operating Support Grants

The Operating Support program provides unrestricted investments in the general operations, administration and programs of eligible arts, science and history/heritage organizations. Operating Support partners demonstrably advance ASC's mission of ensuring access to an excellent, relevant and sustainable cultural community for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. These investments are intended to supplement other revenue, both earned and contributed, generated by the organization.

Between 2018 and 2021, ASC has invested \$145,352 in **Matthews Playhouse of the Performing Arts** through the Operating Support Grant program. Additionally, in 2020 ASC administered \$22,000 of financial assistance through the CARES Act to Matthews Playhouse in partnership with Mecklenburg County, the city of Charlotte, and the Foundation for the Carolinas.

In addition to our investment in the Matthews Playhouse of the Performing Arts, ASC has invested \$81,193.99 in Matthews based Creatives and Cultural Activity between 2018 and 2021:


Cultural Vision Grants

The Cultural Vision Grant & Town Initiatives Grant programs directly respond to the Charlotte Mecklenburg community's interest in arts, science, history and heritage programming that builds strong communities and demonstrates innovative, relevant and transformative cultural expression as outlined in [Imagine 2025](#). ASC seeks to support high quality arts and culture projects presented within Mecklenburg County by Creative Individuals or Nonprofit Organizations that advance one of the following goals:

- *Building Community* by connecting individuals across points of difference.
- *Building Community* by nurturing, celebrating and supporting authentic cultures and creative expression.
- *Increasing Relevance* by using arts, science and history to address complex community issues.
- *Increasing Innovation* by supporting the creation of new and groundbreaking work.

Through ASC's Cultural Vision Grant program, Matthews has received \$22,000 of direct support:

	Town of Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Department	\$5,000.00	To support Cultural Programming in Matthews
2018			



2019	Town of Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Department	\$5,000.00	To support a series of festivals in the Town of Matthews offering vital cultural elements that draw large crowds from the community and surrounding areas.
2020	Downs, Andrea	\$2,000.00	To support Airing Out the "Dirty" Laundry, a participatory art project that invites diverse communities of women to share their stories and engage the community in dialogue about equity and justice.
2020	Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Department	\$5,000.00	To bring a cultural experience to downtown Matthews for residents and visitors and to support the continuation of cultural programming in Matthews.
2021	Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Department	\$5,000.00	To support cultural programming in the Town of Matthews

Support for Individual Creatives

In partnership with the North Carolina Arts Council, ASC's Artist Support Grant Program funds professional and artistic development for emerging and established artists to enhance their skills and abilities to create work or to improve their business operations and capacity to bring their work to new audiences.

2019	\$1,639.99	To purchase a wireless microphone.
2021	\$2,000.00	To produce Sincerely Yours (EP)

Culture Blocks Program Investment

Culture Blocks connects communities with responsive arts, science, and history experiences close to where residents live. The program engages with creative individuals and organizations with a primary mission of arts, science, and/or history to present programs in specific geographic areas. Culture Blocks, funded by Mecklenburg County, supports cultural experiences that are planned with resident involvement and/or take place at libraries, recreation centers, parks, and relevant community spaces.

During the 2019 fiscal year, ASC expanded the Culture Blocks program to Matthews & Mint Hill. Last

year, ASC invested \$36,371.60 for programming in these communities. Here are some examples of Culture Blocks programming curated specifically for this block:

- To support Bechtler Museum of Modern Art's Explore the Bechtler: Discover, Create, Celebrate through community programming March 8-June 28, 2019 in Block 9.
- To support DNAMuzic's performance at the ASC Culture Blocks Community Meal in Mint Hill on May 11, 2019.
- To Support and promote cultural diversity.
- To support Maha's Dances of India's Dances of India on June 1, 2019 at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church.
- To support 18th anniversary of Dances of India on Saturday, October 3, 2020 at the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church's Kerr Building in Block 9. *18th anniversary of Dances of India - Virtual show on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Matthews artists have received \$40,790.47 to facilitate Culture Blocks programming across the county.

2019	\$1,455.00	To support Art by Jewel's Visual Art for Seniors at Southview Recreation Center.
2018	\$6,061.00	To support Artisan Preparatory's The Beauty of Science program, which connects the community with African-American cultural projects in in Blocks 1, 3, 4, 6 & 7.
2019	\$12,081.00	To support Artisan Prep's The Beauty of Science from January-May, 2019 in Blocks 2, 6, 7, 4, 8, & 9.
2019	\$5,398.47	To support science, art and learning in Blocks 2, 6, 7, 4, 8, & 9- Beauty of Science.
2020	\$13,551.00	To support Artisan Prep's, Beauty of Science Program from 09/2019 - 03/2020 in Blocks 9, 5, 4 & 3.

During the public health crisis, many of the providers in the Culture Blocks program pivoted quickly to provide virtual programming. ASC continues to work with our partners across Mecklenburg County to continue to provide excellent, relevant programming in person when the public health crisis has ended.

